## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

DEDICATION
TABLE OF CONTENTS
FOREWORD
DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE
MISSION STATEMENT
EXPLANATION OF DATA
MEDICAL EXAMINER CASES IN 2002
TEN YEAR PERSPECTIVE
Manner: ACCIDENT
Manner: HOMICIDE4
Manner: NATURAL49
Manner: SUICIDE
Manner: TRAFFIC65
Manner: UNDETERMINED
DEATHS DUE TO DRUGS & POISONS: 200283
DEATHS DUE TO FIREARMS: 200293
CAUSES OF DEATH IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH
MEDICAL EXAMINER ACTIVITY101
ORGANIZATION OF THE KING COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE 2002108
GLOSSARY OF TERMS

## LIST OF DATA TABLES

Table 1-1	Deaths in King County and Medical Examiner Cases	9
Table 1-2		11
Table 1-3		12
Table 1-4	Manner of Death by Age and Gender	13
Table 1-5	Manner of Death by Race and Gender	14
Table 1-6	Manner of Death by Marital Status and Gender	15
Table 1-7	Month and Manner of Death	16
Table 1-8	Nearest Incorporated City to the Fatal Incident (Natural Deaths excluded)	17
Table 1-9	Fatal Incident Location for Those Cases where Incident Occurred Outside of King County	
Table 2-1	Comparison of Manners of Death, 1993 - 2002	22
Table 2-2	Comparison of Manners of Death as Percentage of Total Annual Medical Examiner	
	Cases, 1993 - 2002	22
Table 2-3	A Ten Year Perspective of Homicidal Methods	
Table 2-4	A Ten Year Perspective of Suicidal Injury Modes	25
Table 2-5	A Ten Year Perspective of Traffic Fatality Circumstances	
Table 2-6	A Ten Year Perspective of Non-Traffic Accidental Death Circumstances	27
Table 3-1	Circumstances of Accidental Death and Race of the Decedent	
Table 3-2	Circumstances of Accidental Death and Age Group of the Decedent	36
Table 3-3	Circumstances of Accidental Death and Gender of the Decedent	39
Table 3-4	Circumstances of Accidental Death and Blood Alcohol Test Results of the Decedent	40
Table 4-1	Homicidal Methods and Race of the Victim	43
Table 4-2	Homicidal Methods and Age Group of the Victim	44
Table 4-3	Homicide Deaths by Age/Race/Gender	46
Table 4-4	Homicidal Methods and Gender of the Victim	48
Table 4-5	Homicidal Methods and Blood Alcohol Test Results of the Victim	48
Table 5-1	Disease Processes Causing Natural Deaths in 2002	50
Table 5-2	Deaths Due to Natural Causes and Race of the Decedent	53
Table 5-3	Deaths Due to Natural Causes and Age Group of the Decedent	55
Table 5-4	Deaths Due to Natural Causes and Gender of the Decedent	56
Table 5-5	Natural Cause Deaths and Blood Alcohol Test Results	56
Table 6-1	Suicide Injury Methods and Race of the Decedent	59
Table 6-2	Suicide Injury Methods and Age Group of the Decedent	61
Table 6-3	Suicide Injury Methods and Gender of the Decedent	62
Table 6-4	Suicide Injury Methods and Marital Status of the Decedent	63
Table 6-5	Suicide Injury Methods and Blood Alcohol Test Results of the Decedent	64

## Page vi King County Medical Examiner's Office – 2002 Annual Report

Table 7-1	Traffic Fatality Circumstances and Race of the Decedent	68
Table 7-2	Traffic Fatality Circumstances and Age Group of the Decedent	70
Table 7-3	Traffic Fatality Circumstances and Gender of the Decedent	71
Table 7-4	Traffic Fatality Circumstances and Use of Restraint/Helmet	71
Table 7-5	Traffic Fatality Circumstances and Blood Alcohol Test Results of the Decedent	72
Table 7-6	Blood Alcohol Levels of Traffic Fatalities who Died At The Scene of the Accident	72
Table 7-7	Time of Day of Traffic Incident Resulting in Fatality	74
Table 8-1	Undetermined Manner of Death and Race of the Decedent	77
Table 8-2	Undetermined Manner of Death and Age Group of the Decedent	79
Table 8-3	Undetermined Manner of Death and Gender of the Decedent	80
Table 8-4	Undetermined Manner of Death and Blood Alcohol Test Results of the Decedent	80
Table 9-1	Blood Alcohol Testing and Manner of Death	83
Table 9-2	Blood Alcohol Testing as a Percentage by Manner	83
Table 9-3	2002 Drugs and Poison Caused Deaths	85
Table 9-4	Drug Caused Deaths Involving Cocaine, Opiates: 1995-2002	88
Table 9-5	Drug and Poison Deaths and Age Group of the Decedent	90
Table 10-1	Firearm Deaths by Manner of Death, Age, and Gender	94
Table 10-2	Firearm Deaths by Manner of Death, Race, and Gender	96
Table 11-1	Causes of Death: Children Under 1 Year	98
Table 11-2	Causes of Death: Children 1 to 12 Years	99
Table 11-3	Causes of Death: Children 13 to 19 Years	100
Table 12-1	Weekly Variation of Deaths Investigated by the King County Medical Examiner's Office	10
Table 12-2	Weekly Variation of Autopsies Performed by the King County Medical Examiner's Office	10

## LISTS OF GRAPHS AND CHARTS

Graph 1-1	All King County Deaths with Medical Examiner Jurisdiction Shown	10
Graph 1-2	Manner of Death for All Medical Examiner Jurisdiction Cases	10
Graph 1-3	Method of Certification for All Medical Examiner Jurisdiction Cases	11
Graph 1-4	Gender and Manner of Death	12
Graph 1-5	Manner of Death by Marital Status	15
Graph 1-6	Month and Manner of Death	16
Graph 2-1	Comparison of Manners of Death, 1993 - 2002	23
Graph 2-2	Homicides, 1993 - 2002	24
Graph 2-3	Suicides, 1993 - 2002	25
Graph 2-4	Traffic Fatalities, 1993 - 2002	26
Graph 2-5	Accidental Deaths, 1993-2002	28
Graph 2-6	Natural Deaths, 1993 - 2002	28
Graph 2-7	Deaths of Undetermined Manner, 1993 - 2002	29
Graph 3-1	Circumstances of Accidental Death in 2002	32
Graph 3-2	Accidental Deaths and Race of the Decedent	35
Graph 3-3	Accidental Deaths and Age Group of the Decedent	38
Graph 4-1	Homicidal Methods in 2002	42
Graph 4-2	Homicide Deaths and Race of the Victim	45
Graph 4-3	Homicide Deaths and Age Group of the Victim	45
Graph 5-1	Deaths Due to Natural Causes in 2002	52
Graph 5-2	Deaths Due to Natural Causes and Race of the Decedent	54
Graph 5-3	Deaths Due to Natural Causes and Age Group of the Decedent	54
Graph 6-1	Suicide Injury Methods in 2002	58
Graph 6-2	Suicidal Deaths and Race of the Decedent	60
Graph 6-3	Suicidal Deaths and Age Group of the Decedent	60
Graph 7-1	Traffic Fatality Circumstances in 2002	67
Graph 7-2	Traffic Fatalities and Race of the Decedent	69
Graph 7-3	Traffic Fatalities and Age Group of the Decedent	69
Graph 7-4	Blood Alcohol Levels of Traffic Fatalities who DIED AT THE SCENE of the Accident	73
Graph 7-5	Time of Day of Traffic Incident Resulting in Fatality	74
Graph 8-1	Undetermined Manner of Death in 2002	76
Graph 8-2	Deaths Due to Undetermined Manner of Death and Race of the Decedent	78
Graph 8-3	Deaths Due to Undetermined Manner of Death and Age Group of the Decedent	78
Graph 9-1	Drug/Poison Caused Deaths, 1993 - 2002	87
Graph 9-2	Cocaine and Opiate Caused Deaths Compared with All Drug Deaths: 1995-2002	89
Graph 9-3	Drug and Poison Deaths and Age Group of the Decedent	91
Graph 10-1	Firearm Deaths by Manner of Death and Age	95
Graph 11-1	Causes of Death in Children and Youth	98